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Fall 9-1-2021

### SOCI 211S.01: Introduction to Criminology

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# **Introduction to Criminology – SOCI 211S**

**Autumn 2021**

Tuesday & Tuesday, 11:00–12:20, Social Sciences 352

## **Instructor Information**

Dr. Jackson Bunch  
Email: jackson.bunch@umontana.edu  
Office: Social Sciences 331  
Zoom Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:00–3:00 and  
Thursday, 3:00–4:00 (and by appointment).  
See Moodle for information on how to schedule  
a meeting.

## **Teaching Assistant**

Sara Wozniak  
Email: sara.wozniak@umontana.edu  
Office:  
Office Hours:

## **Course Overview**

In this course, we will survey many of the major issues in criminology, including the nature of crime, causes of crime, and societal reaction to crime. In the first section of the course, we will examine how crime is measured, who commits crime, as well as discuss why certain types of behaviors are considered “criminal.” We will also discuss characteristics of major categories of crime, including property crime, violent crime, victimless crime, and white-collar crime. In the second section of the course, we will focus on the causes of crime. Here, we will study several theories of crime, comparing evidence between the theories and applying the theories to real-life events. Finally, we will briefly discuss the criminal justice system and efforts to control crime. Throughout the course, you will be encouraged to think critically and to weigh the evidence for and against various perspectives. In this way, the ultimate goal for the course is to provide you with the necessary tools to understand the complex issues of crime, as well as to evaluate crime-control strategies.

**The syllabus is a general plan for the course. Deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.**

## **Required Readings:**

*Introduction to Criminology: Theories, Methods, and Criminal Behavior* (10<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Frank Hagan and Leah Daigle.

Additional readings will be available online on Moodle.

*You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class each day. The readings establish the foundation for the lectures and class discussions, so do not expect to be taught the information that appears in the readings during class. Instead, our in-class time will be spent going beyond the readings.*

## **Course Requirements**

### **Three Exams**

You will have three exams of increasing value (worth 15%, 25%, and 30% of your grade). Exams focus upon (and therefore you are responsible for knowing) material presented in the readings and in class. No exam, including the “final,” is cumulative in the traditional sense. It is impossible, however, to avoid concepts and material presented in earlier units as the semester unfolds. Exam dates are indicated on the course outline.

### **Quizzes and In-Class Activities**

In addition to the exams, you will also have periodic quizzes and in-class exercises/group activities. These will account for the remaining 30% of your grade. The quizzes will assess your comprehension of the assigned readings and will be given within the first 5 minutes of class. If you arrive late or are absent for any reason, you

will be unable to make-up that day's quiz. There will be approximately 7 to 10 of these reading quizzes. We will also have several in-class group activities. They will be graded in terms of "pass/fail" (either you do it or you don't); consequently, if you aren't in class on the day of a given assignment, there will be no way to make-up the points. If you show up late or leave early during a day in which we have a quiz or activity, you will not receive credit for that quiz or activity. I will drop your **two** lowest quiz/activity grades.

## Grading

Course grades will be based on the following:

Quiz/Activity	30%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Final grades for the course are based on the following scale:

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	93 to 100
A-	90 to 92.99
B+	88 to 89.99
B	83 to 87.99
B-	80 to 82.99
C+	78 to 79.99
C	73 to 77.99
C-	70 to 72.99
D+	68 to 69.99
D	63 to 67.99
D-	60 to 62.99
F	59.99 and below

Course grades are not rounded up to the next letter grade.

## Class Participation and Attendance

While I have no official attendance requirement, I strongly encourage you to attend all class sessions. And, because this class will emphasize class discussion, it is important that you come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Students who attend regularly and participate in class discussions tend to perform better on exams than those who do not. We will also have in-class exercises and quizzes that you will not be able to make-up.

You should be aware that we will discuss a number of subjects that you may find controversial. In all of our class discussions, you will be expected to be respectful toward your classmates, despite any disagreement you may have with a classmate's ideas. In this way, we will foster an atmosphere in which each student feels comfortable presenting his or her thoughts, as well as critiquing the arguments presented by others. You should not worry that your grade will be affected if you express opinions different from what you perceive the professor's opinions to be. Instead, focus upon using evidence and logic to present your own arguments and in critiquing the arguments of others. In following these ground rules, I expect our discussion to be lively, interesting, and intellectually challenging.

## Classroom Courtesy

Please plan to arrive on time for all class sessions and to stay for the entire class. If you **must** arrive late or leave early, please notify me in advance and sit near the door so as not to disturb your classmates. Cell phones should be muted before entering the classroom. When class begins, please put away all other materials. As a general rule, I do not allow laptops in class, as these devices are distracting for other students. If you would like to discuss using a laptop, please make arrangements to meet with me. Finally, wait until the end of class before putting away your books.

## Make-Up Exam Policy

Make-up exams will be given at the instructor's discretion. The only times in which a make-up exam will be considered are when the student experiences a serious illness or family situation that prevents him or her from being physically present during the exam. Please understand that offering a false rationale for a make-up exam is an act of academic dishonesty and amounts to cheating on an exam. In all cases, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor to request a make-up. The failure of the student to request the make-up within 24 hours of the missed exam will be sufficient cause for the professor to deny the request. If the request is denied, then a score of zero is entered for that exam. If the instructor elects to permit a make-up, then the format of the make-up exam may vary from the original exam and must be taken as soon after the missed exam as possible.

## Academic Honesty

All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. A few examples of academic dishonesty are copying answers from another student during an exam or quiz, signing in for another student on an attendance sheet or having another student sign in for you, giving a false excuse for failing to show up for an exam, making use of old exams from this course, or taking a copy of an exam from our classroom. Students who assist other students in academically dishonest acts are in violation of the policy of academic honesty. All students must be aware of and carefully adhere to the provisions defining and prohibiting academic misconduct in the UM Student Conduct Code ([http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student\\_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php)). The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense.

## Disability Equity

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with the ODE, please contact them in Lommasson Center 154 or (406) 243-2243. I will work with you and ODE to provide an appropriate modification.

## Basic Needs Statement

Any student who faces challenges securing food or housing, and believes that this could affect their performance in this course, is urged to contact any or all of the following campuses resources:

**Food Pantry Program:** UM offers a food pantry that students can access for emergency food. The pantry is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 10am to 3pm. The pantry is located in UC 119 (in the former ASUM Childcare offices). Pantry staff operate several satellite food cupboards on campus (including one at Missoula College). For more information about this program, email [umpantry@mso.umt.edu](mailto:umpantry@mso.umt.edu), visit the pantry's website (<https://www.umt.edu/uc/food-pantry/default.php>), or contact the pantry on social media (@pantryUm on twitter, @UMPantry on Facebook, um\_pantry on Instagram).

**ASUM Renter Center:** The Renter Center has compiled a list of resources for UM students at risk of homelessness or food insecurity (<http://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/renter-center/default.php>). Students can schedule an appointment with Renter Center staff to discuss their situation and receive information, support, and referrals.

**TRiO Student Support Services:** TRiO serves UM students who are low-income, first-generation college students, or have documented disabilities. TRiO services include a textbook loan program, scholarships and financial aid help, academic advising, coaching, and tutoring. Students can check their eligibility for TRiO services online (<http://www.umt.edu/trioss/apply.php#Eligibility>).

If you are comfortable, please come see members of the teaching team. We will do our best to help connect you with additional resources.

## Discrimination and Harassment

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX states that: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." If any employee of UM, including instructors and teaching assistants, learns of any potential gender-based discrimination (e.g., sexual violence, sexual harassment, rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or stalking), they are required to notify the Title IX Coordinator, Jessica Weltman (243-5710, Main Hall Room 006), immediately. Once an incident is reported to Title IX, the student will be contacted by the Title IX Coordinator for follow up. Students can also report directly to the Title IX coordinator in regards to any gender-based discrimination.

**Confidential Resource:** The Student Advocacy Resource Center (SARC) provides *free and confidential* support and brief counseling services for students who have experienced gender-based discrimination. SARC is located in Curry Health Center, Room 108, and their number is **(406) 243-4429**. Students are also welcome to call their **24-hour support line (406) 243-6559**. Speaking with a confidential resource does not disqualify students from making a formal report to the Title IX Coordinator if and when they are ready. In the confidential setting, students will be made aware of available resources and reporting options. An advocate is available for all students upon request through SARC.

## COVID-19 Protocols

- Mask use is required within the classroom.
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress.
- UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.
- Since social distancing (maintaining consistent 6 feet between individuals) is not possible in this classroom, specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact tracing efforts.
- Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts.
- Drinking liquids and eating food is strongly discouraged within the classroom, since it involves removal of masks.

## Course Outline

### The Nature & Extent of Crime

Tuesday 8/31	<b>What is Crime</b> No new readings today.
Thursday 9/2	<b>Measuring &amp; Classifying Crime</b> Read Hagan & Daigle Chapter 2 and “The Nation’s Two Crime Measures”
Tuesday 9/7	<b>Measuring &amp; Classifying Crime</b> Review Hagan & Daigle Chapter 2
Thursday 9/9	<b>Public Order Crime</b> Read Hagan & Daigle Chapter 14
Tuesday 9/14	<b>Costs of the War on Drugs</b> Film: <i>The House I Live In</i> .
Thursday 9/16	<b>Costs of the War on Drugs</b> Film: <i>The House I Live In</i> .
<b>Tuesday 9/21</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>  This exam covers the approaches to defining crime, the measurement of crime, and public order crimes.
Thursday 9/23	<b>Homicide, Aggravated Assault, &amp; Sexual Assault</b> Read Hagan & Daigle Chapter 9 and “Federal Rules on Rape Statistics Criticized”
Tuesday 9/28	<b>Robbery</b> Read “Creating the Illusion of Impending Death”
Thursday 9/30	<b>Burglary &amp; Motor Vehicle Theft</b> Read Hagan & Daigle Chapter 10
Tuesday 10/5	<b>Larceny-Theft &amp; Violent/Property Crime Conclusion</b> Read “The Five-Finger Discount”
Thursday 10/7	<b>White-Collar Crime</b> Read Hagan & Daigle Chapter 11
Tuesday 10/12	<b>Catch-Up</b> No new readings today.
Thursday 10/14	<b>Special Topics: Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission</b> <b>No In-Person Class Today.</b> Watch Documentary on Moodle.
Tuesday 10/19	<b>White-Collar Crime: Enron</b> Film: <i>Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room</i> . Reading TBA

Thursday 10/21	<b>White-Collar Crime: Enron</b> Film: <i>Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room</i> . No new readings today.
<b>Tuesday 10/26</b>	<b>Exam 2</b> This exam covers violent crime, property crime, and white-collar crime.
<b>Causes of Crime</b>	
Thursday 10/28	<b>Classical Criminology</b> Read Hagan & Daigle Chapter 5
Tuesday 11/2	<b>Biological Theories</b> Read Hagan & Daigle Chapter 6
Thursday 11/4	<b>Strain Theories</b> Read Hagan & Daigle Chapter 7 excerpt (pp. 175-183)
Tuesday 11/9	<b>Social Disorganization Theory</b> Read Hagan & Daigle Chapter 7 excerpt (pp.184-187)
Thursday 11/11	<b>Learning Theories</b> Read Hagan & Daigle Chapter 7 excerpt (pp.187-193)
Thursday 11/16	<b>Control Theories</b> Read Hagan & Daigle Chapter 7 excerpt (pp.194-203)
<b>Societal Responses to Crime</b>	
Thursday 11/18	<b>Race and Incarceration</b> Film: <i>13<sup>th</sup></i> . No new readings today.
Tuesday 11/23	<b>Race and Incarceration</b> Film: <i>13<sup>th</sup></i> . No new readings today.
Thursday 11/25	<b>No Class: Thanksgiving Break</b>
Tuesday 11/30	<b>Incarceration in America</b> Reading TBA
Thursday 12/2	<b>Criminal Justice Special Topics: Death Penalty</b> Read “Where the Death Penalty Still Lives”
Tuesday 12/7	<b>Criminal Justice Special Topics: Firearms in America</b> Read “Firearm Prevalence and Homicides of Law Enforcement Officers in the United States”
Thursday 12/9	<b>Review of Theories</b> No new readings today
<b>FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 16, 10:10–12:10, Social Sciences 352</b> This exam covers criminological theories and the criminal justice system.	